Elena Teare

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*Confessions of an Economic Hitman*

*Confessions of an Economic Hitman* chronicles the life and career of John Perkins and serves as an expose of American covert foreign policy and international sabotage. Perkins reveals the ugly realities concerning our government, and although the conspiracies that he exposes seem to resemble fantastical fiction, they are nonetheless real.

Perkins introduces himself with a brief overview of his upbringing on the east coast of the United States and his eventual graduation from Boston University with a degree in Business. Upon receiving a draft notice for the Vietnam War, Perkin’s wife uses her family connections to obtain a job for her husband with the National Security Agency. After being successfully profiled by the NSA, Perkin’s was offered a job as an economist. However, after attending a Peace Corps recruitment seminar, Perkins wishes to live abroad as a volunteer. He is actively encouraged by the NSA to go into the Peace Corps in order to observe the political and economic situation of Ecuador, to live among the people and learn their language. Over his two year stint in Ecuador, he actively passes information to a representative of a private firm collecting intel for the World Bank. The objective of this private engineering firm, MAIN International, was too analyze foreign governments that would qualify for large loans to fund development projects from the World Bank and other international agencies.

After Perkins’s return to the United States, he is offered a job as an economist at MAIN International. At the time Perkins did not realize that he was being groomed and trained for the role as an Economic Hitman (EHM). EHM’s are individuals who are profiled by the NSA and CIA but instead of working directly for the government, they work for private and ambiguous engineering or construction firms. Their jobs are to encourage the governments of developing nations to accept extravagant loans from the World Bank in order to fund development projects such as dams, roads and electrical grids. The loans are set up with high interest rates designed to bankrupt foreign governments within a few years, necessitating further loans and lucrative construction contracts for American companies. Perkins’s first assignment is in Java, Indonesia and he quickly learns that statistical data can easily be manipulated and uses this technique in order to construct economic forecasts the positively support development projects and loans.

Perkins frequently expresses his doubts and guilt when recounting the early days in his career, but ultimately convinces himself that these projects will bring prosperity to impoverished people around the world (in addition he is offered a very incentive salary). The years pass and he continues to represent his company in cities around the globe. He chronicles and details many stories that have involved EMH’s and himself in affairs abroad including Saudi Arabian construction contracts and money laundering, Guatemala and United Fruit, the Panama canal and the assassination of President Torrijos, the funding of Osama bin Laden and the Iranian Revolution. This is a period in history where covert operations where preferred over overt military intervention in order to serve the interests of the United States. Perkins is adamant in defining that we are no longer an American Republic, but an American global corporation.

After a successful career as an EMH of over twenty years, Perkins finally quits MAIN. He eventual starts up his own energy company named Independent Power Systems with the support of all his very wealthy allies he made in his career. Thirty-five years after being in the Peace Corps in Ecuador, he returns and reflects on how the country has changed, mostly due to American interference. He firmly believes that the Ecuadorians have a much more complete and accurate view of the state of affairs internationally and the true aims of American companies and government. He laments the fact that the average U.S. citizen is positively clueless to how the world really runs. After attempting and failing to write this memoir many times due to death threats and bribery, Perkins finally finishes *Confessions of an Economic Hitman,* in part I believe to achieve some cathartic release and to encourage change.